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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. Ahmad Bey Ceric, who is accepted by the Syrian Government as the military representative of the Croat Moslems in Syria, told source that several Yugoslav officers had come to ask his advice about joining the forces of Hajj Amin Husayni, the Grand Mufti. Ceric stated that both the Yugoslavs and the Germans in the Syrian Army were becoming disgusted with that army and felt that the Grand Mufti might be able to accomplish something. 25X1A  
Comment. For more information on Ahmad Bey Ceric see [REDACTED] 25X1A
5. Serkiya Muftic, another leader of the Croat Moslems in Syria, is training a battalion for the Grand Mufti at a camp on the Beirut-Tripoli road, about 10 kilometers from Beirut. 25X1A  
 Muftic claims that this is the most promising group of students he has seen since his arrival in the Middle East, and he considers them far better than the troops which comprised the Liberation Army. At present there are about four hundred men in the battalion.
6. Among the colony of Germans and German sympathizers in Damascus is Franz Wanning, a former Krupp employee and Nazi. Wanning is at present the manager of the Frigorific Company, an ice and cold storage plant at Mezze. Wanning also offers technical advice to the Syrian Army.
7. Wanning arrived in Syria from Germany in September 1947, after considerable difficulty. He was finally allowed into Syria through the efforts of Dr. Sa'id Patah Imam and Fawzi Qawuqji, both of whom had known Wanning in Germany. Wanning has since become a member of Imam's fascist clique in Syria and both Imam and Qawuqji have made strenuous efforts to obtain for him some substantially remunerative position with the Syrian Government.
8. With some bitterness Wanning told source that he and other Germans would never be "appreciated" by the Syrians or accepted in important advisory positions so long as Jamil Mardam, whom Wanning termed a "British tool," remained as Prime Minister. The "practical" members of the Syrian Government, according to Wanning, have had to resort to all kinds of ruses to keep from Mardam the fact that German technicians and military advisers are employed at several spots in the Syrian Government.

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